Pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students

3987. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students have been extended to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of OBC students in each category presently in receipt of the scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government is implementing the Schemes of Pre-matric Scholarships and Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Under the Pre-matric Scheme, Scholarships are awarded to OBC students studying at pre-matric stage and whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/-. 50% Central assistance is provided to State Government over and above the committed liability.

Under the Post-matric Scheme, Scholarships are awarded to OBC students studying post-matriculation/post-secondary stage and whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/-. t00% Central assistance is provided to State Government over and above the committed liability.

(c) Rs. 6.45 crores for 136598 OBC students and Rs. 2.48 crores for 14250 OBC students have been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh during the financial year 2002-2003 under the Centrally sponsored scheme of PFe-matric and Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students, respectively.

Welfare measures for disabled persons

3988. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that in United States, the term 'Handicap' is not used to refer to disabled persons;

(b) whether it is a fact that the facilities like special ramps, elevators etc., are provided for them in United States; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal with Government to adopt some of these welfare measures in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT PR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has no specific information regarding non-usage of term 'Handicap' in United States and details of the facilities provided for persons with disabilities in United States.

(c) (i) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitat'On for persons with disability, establishment of homes for persons with severe disability, redressal mechanism, etc. The Act already provides for creation of barrier free infrastructure in transport sector, roads and public buildings by tne appropriate government within the limits of their economic capacity and development.

(ii) Action to create barrier fiee facilities for persons with disabilities in public building, on roads and in transport has been initiated by various authorities in Centra! Government. The Urban Development Ministry has prepared Model Building Blaws and guidelines for construction of barrier free buildings and circulated the same to ail States/UTs 'or adoption. While old buildirgs are being modified to facilitate access to persons with disabilities, instructions have been issued to Central Public Works Department (CFWD) and other agencies to incorporate barner froe features in the aesigns for new buildings The efforts of making public buildings barriei-free is a continuous process and progress depends on the resources available.

Criteria for categorisation of persons below poverty line

†3989. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for including any family or person in the below poverty line category in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.